

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR
PEGGY M. HATCH
SECRETARY

For Immediate Release August 24, 2011

Contact: Rodney Mallett

Phone: 225-219-3964

BATON ROUGE –The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has approved Temple-Inland's water discharge plan to prevent an emergency, such as overtopping caused by heavy rainfall. This was done as an amendment to a compliance order DEQ issued earlier this week. To discharge wastewater from an on-site retention pond, Temple-Inland would have to notify the department that it is going to discharge the water and follow a rigorous sampling effort.

Temple-Inland discharge plan with additional monitoring approved; discharge yet to begin

Today's approval only applies to the discharge plan; it does not authorize the facility to commence operations. The facility still requires approval from DEQ before it can officially commence operations. The Bogalusa Paperboard Mill ceased operating and discharging into waters of the state on Aug. 14.

As part of the approved plan, Temple-Inland is required to conduct rigorous internal sampling of its water treatment facility, of its discharge point, at various points upstream and at various locations downstream within the Pearl River. The approved plan also requires Temple-Inland to meet certain additional requirements which include providing verbal and electronic notifications to various regulatory agencies and interested parties. The company must also submit weekly progress reports on the status of the events associated with their operations.

"With the possibility of rain in the forecast, the company, DEQ and several partnering agencies involved felt it best to be prepared for emergency situations," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. "This plan, with the additional monitoring and notification processes will ensure the discharge will be protective of the Pearl River."